

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented): An engine muffler comprising:

a first expansion chamber having a chamber gas inlet aperture connecting to an engine exhaust gas outlet;

a second expansion chamber having a chamber gas outlet aperture;

a first exhaust gas purifier extending between the first and the second expansion chambers;

a first cover plate, which has an inlet aperture, covering an upstream portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the first expansion chamber; and

a second cover plate, which has an outlet aperture, covering a downstream portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the second expansion chamber;

wherein a wall of at least one of the first expansion chamber and the second expansion chamber has a double wall construction with a predetermined gap interposed therebetween.

Claims 6-7. (canceled).

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appl. No. 09/985,856 (*Q67030*)

8. (previously presented): An engine muffler comprising:
a main body having a partition dividing an interior of the main body into a first expansion chamber and a second expansion chamber;
a first exhaust gas purifier extending through the partition;
a first cover plate covering a first portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the first expansion chamber, wherein the first cover plate and the partition are of a monolithic, one piece construction; and
a second cover plate covering a second portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the second expansion chamber, wherein the second cover plate is fastened to the partition with a bolt and a nut;
wherein a wall of the second expansion chamber has an opening through which an exhaust gas passing through the first exhaust gas purifier exits to the outside of the muffler.

Claims 9-11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented): An engine muffler comprising:
a first expansion chamber having a chamber gas inlet connecting to an engine exhaust gas outlet;
a second expansion chamber having a chamber gas outlet;
a first exhaust gas purifier extending between the first and the second expansion chambers;

a first cover plate, which has an introduction inlet, covering a first portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the first expansion chamber;

a second cover plate, which has a flow outlet, covering a second portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the second expansion chamber; and

a second exhaust gas purifier provided in the first expansion chamber, wherein the second exhaust gas purifier has an open end facing the engine exhaust gas outlet;

wherein a wall of at least one of the first expansion chamber and the second expansion chamber has a double wall construction with a predetermined gap interposed therebetween.

13. (previously presented): The engine muffler according to claim 12, wherein a catalyst is not applied to one of the first exhaust gas purifier and the second exhaust gas purifier when there is no particular restriction of the exhaust gas purification concentration degree.

14. (canceled).